# The Hollókő Castle Witch

By Paul Dale Roberts, Halo Paranormal Investigations

Perched high above the village that shares its name, Hollókő Castle is more than a ruin of medieval stone — it is a stage where history and legend still collide. Battles between Mongols, Hungarians, and Ottomans left their mark on the fortress walls, while centuries of folklore gave rise to tales of witches, omens, and restless spirits.

Visitors don't just come for the heritage; they come to walk the line between past and paranormal, where every shadow seems to whisper of the castle's haunted legacy.

**A Fortress Shaped by War, Shadowed by Legend**

Former tour guide Adony Farkas calls Hollókő Castle in Hungary one of the most haunted castles in Eastern Europe. Its most infamous spirit is the Hollókő Castle Witch, a figure that has been reported by countless visitors over the years.

The castle itself is steeped in history. Locals and tourists alike have heard disembodied screams echoing across the surrounding hills. Others claim to have seen spectral Mongols on horseback — echoes of the 13th-century invasion of Hollókő village. In the wake of that devastation, construction of the castle began to defend against further attacks. By 1310, records show the fortress had fallen under the control of the Kacsics noble clan.

War and bloodshed continued long after. In 1552, the Ottomans seized the castle, beginning a 150-year struggle in which the fortress repeatedly changed hands between Hungarian and Ottoman forces. Local tourist, history major, and paranormal enthusiast Dominik Szabo recalls one chilling visit. From the castle walls, he watched ghostly Ottoman soldiers march in formation along the horizon — only to vanish as the sunlight broke over the fields. Dominik became a believer in the afterlife that day.

In 1987, the ruins and the surrounding village were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, ensuring their preservation for generations to come.

**Unsettling Apparitions**

The castle is home to a wide variety of spectral tales. Former groundskeeper Paloma Adam recalls reports of a giant black bulldog prowling the grounds. Locals warn that encountering this ghostly hound is an omen of misfortune. Visitors have also seen shadowy figures darting along the walls, and even full-bodied apparitions, including a woman in a tattered old dress believed to be the Hollókő Castle Witch herself.

**Hollókő Castle rises above the village as a timeless ruin where history and legend intertwine.**

One curious tale comes from tourist Balint Kovacs, who was resting on a chair inside the castle when a frog suddenly appeared at his feet. The creature hopped around briefly, then vanished into thin air. Such small, uncanny events are woven into the larger web of strange phenomena at Hollókő.

### The Legend of the Witch

The story of the Hollókő Castle Witch begins with the Kacsics family, who are said to have kidnapped a young maiden from a neighboring village and locked her away in the castle's cold stone chambers. Her nanny, a witch, vowed to free her mistress. So, she struck a pact with the devil, who commanded his sons to take the form of ravens. Each night, the birds stole stones from the fortress walls until the maiden was released.

This legend still echoes in the town's identity. Hollókő means "raven stone" in Hungarian, and along the road to the village stands a bronze statue of a raven perched on rock.

Paloma insists that the witch's spirit remains tied to the castle, not as a curse but as a protector. She notes that on certain evenings, just before dusk, flocks of ravens sweep down over the ruins — a reminder, she believes, that the witch still watches over Hollókő.

### Other Dark Omens

Local historian Istvan Molnar points to another spectral tale: the Headless Black Horse. According to legend, it appears only to those who have committed heinous sins. To meet its eyeless stare is to invite a dreadful curse, followed by illness, misfortune, and possibly death.

For ghost hunters such as Reka Barta, Hollókő Castle remains a magnet for investigation. The castle will always be mysterious and intriguing, drawing in those who want to experience the paranormal, she said.

With its blood-soaked past and spectral lore, it's no surprise that Hollókő has secured its place among Europe's most haunted sites.

### Where History Ends and Haunting Begins

Hollókő Castle endures not only as a monument of stone, but as a living repository of memory and myth. Its ruined towers remind visitors of centuries of conflict, yet its stories speak of something less tangible — an unseen presence that defies time.

For some, the witch is a terrifying omen; for others, she is a guardian spirit bound to the land. Whether drawn by heritage, history, or haunting, those who climb the path to Hollókő often leave with more than photographs — they leave with whispers of the unseen.◆